The 21st Century
(A Girl Born in Afghanistan)

A setting of text from the Nobel Lecture by Peace Prize Laureate
Kofi Annan

for unaccompanied mixed choir
with piano reduction for rehearsal only

Burke & Bagley

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The 21st Century

(A Girl Born in Afghanistan)

Adapted from the Nobel Lecture given by Kofi Annan
in Oslo on December 10, 2001

Your Majesties, Your Royal Highnesses, Excellencies,
Members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, in Afghanistan, a girl will be born.
Her mother will hold her and feed her,
comfort her and care for her –
just as any mother would anywhere in the world.
In these basic acts of human nature, humanity knows no
divisions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
We have entered the third millennium through a gate of fire.
Awareness of the bonds that bind us all – in pain as in prosperity
– has gripped young and old.
In the 21st Century we must look beyond States,
we must look beneath the surface of nations.
We must focus on improving the conditions of men and women.
We must begin with the young Afghan girl.
Saving that one life is to save humanity itself.

In this new century, we must start from understanding
Peace must be made real and tangible in the daily lives of
every man and woman.

Distinguished guests,
The notion that what is ours must conflict with what is
theirs is both false and dangerous.
It has resulted in endless enmity and conflict.
It has led men to commit great crimes in the name of a
higher power.

It need not be so.
We can love what we are, without hating what we are not,
without hating who we are not.

Your Majesties, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
The girl born in Afghanistan today
Is just one test of our humanity –
But it is the only test that matters.

For unaccompanied mixed choir
with piano reduction for rehearsal only

Duration: 7 minutes

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan was awarded the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize. The text for this piece is adapted from his Nobel Lecture given on December 10, 2001. The lecture text is Copyright © 2001 by The Nobel Foundation, Stockholm, 2001, and is used by permission. The complete text may be found at www.nobel.se/peace/laureates/2001/annan-lecture.html.

The premiere performance was given on February 8, 2003, by the William & Mary Choir under the direction of Dr. Constance DeFotis at the College of William & Mary’s Charter Day celebration featuring Kofi Annan as guest speaker. The piece was selected as finalist in 2003 Briar Cliff University New Choral Music Competition. For information about composer Greg Bartholomew, visit www.gregbartholomew.com.
The 21st Century (A Girl Born in Afghanistan)

Dedicated to Kay Bellor, Keith Axelsen and the International Rescue Committee

Text adapted from the Nobel Lecture by Kofi Annan

Greg Bartholomew

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

for rehearsal only

Ah, With great dignity

Your majesties, Your royal highnesses, Excelencies,

Ah,

Ah,

Ah,

Ah,

Ah,

Mem bers of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Ladies and gentlemen,

Mem bers of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Ladies and gentlemen,

La dies and gent le men,

La dies and gent le men,

La dies and gent le men,
Today in Afghanistan, a girl will be born.

Her mother will hold her and feed.
S. A. T. B.

her, will comfort her, and care for her. Just as

A. (melody)

will comfort her, and care for her. Just as any

T. her, will comfort her, and care for her.

B. her, and comfort her. Just as

Pno

any mother would anywhere in the world. Ah.

A. (melody)

mother would anywhere in the world.

T. Just as any mother would anywhere in the world.

B. any mother would anywhere in the world.

Pno
We have entered the third millennium through a gate of humanity knows no divisions.

Ladies and gentlemen, We have entered the third millennium through a gate of humanity knows no divisions.

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We have entered the third millennium through a gate of fire. Awareness of the bonds that bind us all
In pain as in prosperity has gripped young and old.

In the Twenty First Century, we must look beyond States,
we must look beneath the surface of Nations.

We must focus on improving conditions of men and women.

We must focus on improving conditions of men and women.
We must begin with the young Afghan girl. Saving that one life is to save humanity itself.

In this new century, we must start from understanding:

In this new century, we must start from understanding:

In this new century:
Peace must be made real and tangible.

Peace must be made real and tangible in the daily lives of ev’ry man and woman.

Peace must be made real...
It has resulted in endless enmity.

It has resulted in endless enmity.

is both false and dangerous.

is both false and dangerous.

It has detached has led men to commit great crimes.

It has detached has led men to commit great crimes.
led men to commit great crimes in the name of a higher pow'r.

It need not be so. We can love.

It need not be so. We can love.

It need not be so. We can love.
love what we are without hating what we are not,

what we are without hating what we are not,

what we are without hating what we are not,

love what we are without hating what we are not,

with-out hating who we are not. We can love.

with-out hating who we are not. We can love.

with-out hating who we are not. We can love.

with-out hating who we are not. We can love.
We can love. Your majesties, Excelencies.

La dies and gentle-men,

To day.

La dies and gentle-men, The girl born in Afghan-istan

La dies and gentle-men: To day.
Today, it is the only test that matters.

Today, it is the only test that matters.

Today, it is the only test that matters.

Today, it is the only test that matters.